

ANDREA BEATTY RINIKER  
Director



STATE OF WASHINGTON  
DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

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MAR 18 1988  
OFFICE OF  
REGIONAL ADMINISTRATOR

March 17, 1988

Mr. Robie G. Russell  
Regional Administrator  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
Region 10  
1200 Sixth Avenue  
Seattle, Washington 98101

Re: Final Record of Decision (ROD) for Tacoma Tar Pits Site,  
Tacoma

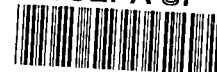
Dear Mr. Russell:

The Washington Department of Ecology has reviewed the proposed Record of Decision (ROD) for the Tacoma Tar Pits site and concurs with the selection of excavation/stabilization of contaminated soils, capping, surface water diversion, and long-term ground water monitoring as the appropriate remedy.

The State concurs with the selection of remedy subject to the clarifying provisions discussed below.

1. In the ROD, the term "operational life of the remedial action" was not defined. A clear definition of this term will need to be incorporated into the consent decree.
2. All Extremely Hazardous Waste (EHW) in the vicinity of the ponds and tar pits must be excavated and removed from the site, or treated to the point where it is no longer considered EHW. This is consistent with WAC 173-303-140 which we believe is a relevant and appropriate requirement for this site. This requirement should serve as one of the performance standards for the treatment process.
3. We agree that the remedy satisfies the preference expressed in SARA for treatment that reduces toxicity, mobility, and volume. However, we do not believe that this level of treatment will eliminate "...any foreseeable future significant risk to human health or welfare or the environment..." Consequently, we do not believe that the potentially responsible parties are eligible for a mandatory covenant not to sue under SARA Section 122 or the state's Hazardous Waste Cleanup Act (RCW 70.105B.080).

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Although Ecology will not be actively participating in future negotiations on the site, we are confident that your staff will satisfactorily resolve these issues. If you or your staff have questions regarding these issues, please contact David Bradley at 438-3069.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Andrea Beatty Riniker", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Andrea Beatty Riniker  
Director

MAC:md